

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
DHA-02 ORM-02 HEW-04 /089 W
-----251840Z 038400 /44

R 251258Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7634
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, LY, EG, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH WORKERS IN LIBYA

REF: STATE 117269

1. TURKEY HAS A VALID MANPOWER AGREEMENT WITH LIBYA SIGNED ON JANUARY 5, 1975, AND A SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT CONCLUDED ON MARCH 20, 1976, PLUS AN IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE TWO, DATED JANUARY 20, 1977. AT THE BEGINNING OF 1977, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TURKISH WORKERS EMPLOYED IN LIBYA WAS OVER 10 THOUSAND, ACCORDING TO BOTH TURKISH AND LIBYAN OFFICIALS.

2. MINISTERS OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAVE STATED ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS DURING 1976 THAT THEY DESIRED TO REPLACE ALL FOREIGN WORKERS WITH TURKS AND UTILIZE IN TIME OVER 100,000 TURKISH WORKERS. ON MAY 15, 1977, TURKEY'S LARGEST SELLING DAILY, HURRIYET, REPORTED THAT LIBYA WANTED MORE WORKERS FROM TURKEY FOLLOWING THE DEPORTATION OF EGYPTIAN WORKERS DUE TO THE INCREASING TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO NEIGHBORS.

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THE PAPER WROTE: "ACCORDING TO NEWS ARRIVING FROM THE TURKISH LABOR ATTACHE IN TRIPOLI, ALL EGYPTIAN WORKERS EMPLOYED IN LIBYAN AIRPORTS, BASES AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS HAVE BEEN LAID OFF AND THE MOVEMENT CONTINUES IN OTHER FIELDS TOO. THE LIBYAN MINISTRY OF LABOR HAS OFFICIALLY ASKED TURKEY TO FILL THE GAPS LEFT BY THE EXPELLED EGYPTIANS. HOWEVER, TURKISH OFFICIALS IN LIBYA HAVE SENT A REPORT TO ANKARA ABOUT

THE PROBLEMS BESETTING TURKISH WORKERS IN THAT COUNTRY.
TROUBLE WOULD BE CAUSED FOR TURKEY, THEY SAY, IF MORE
WORKERS ARE SENT THERE WITHOUT FIRST SOLVING THESE DIFFICULTIES."

3. PROBLEMS WERE REPORTED AMONG THE TURKISH WORKERS IN LIBYA DURING 1976. A GROUP OF 250 WERE DEPORTED FROM LIBYA IN EARLY JANUARY, 1977, WHEN THEY COMPLAINED ABOUT CERTAIN WORKING CONDITIONS. THE INCIDENT HAD CAUSED GREAT CONCERN AMONG THE TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF TURKEY AND LIBYA. WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF TURKISH MINISTER OF LABOR SEVKET KAZAN AND LIBYAN MINISTER OF STATE TAHA AL-SHARIF BIN AMER, THE MATTER WAS SETTLED, AND THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO TAKE BACK THE DEPORTED TURKISH WORKERS AT ITS OWN EXPENSE.

4. ON APRIL 7, 1977, A MANPOWER AND SOCIAL SECURITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE TURKISH-LIBYAN JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, DECIDED IN ANKARA THAT BOTH TURKEY AND LIBYA WOULD SUPERVISE THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF 10,000 TURKISH WORKERS, EVEN IF THEY WENT TO LIBYA WITH A CONTRACTOR. THAT WOULD PREVENT THE EXPLOITATION OF THE WORKER BY THE EMPLOYER, AND SHORTCOMINGS OBSERVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LABOR AGREEMENTS WOULD BE ELIMINATED. TURKISH WORKERS WOULD BE ISSUED WITH RESIDENCE PERMITS WITHOUT DELAY.

5. THE NUMBER OF TURKISH WORKERS GOING TO LIBYA THROUGH THE OFFICIAL CHANNELS SHOWED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN 1976 AND REACHED 4,098, AS COMPARED WITH 2,121 IN 1975. THIS UPWARD TREND CONTINUED IN 1977, AND 1,532 TURKISH WORKERS WERE PLACED AT JOBS IN LIBYA DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THIS YEAR, AS COMPARED WITH 1,319 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1976.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, EMIGRANTS, FOREIGN WORKERS, SOCIAL INSURANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA04048
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770187-0219
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770521/aaaaarzz.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 963cd18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 117269
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2383836
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH WORKERS IN LIBYA
TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, LY, EG, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/963cd18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009